

ISTEP+ Performance Level Descriptors

English/Language Arts – Grade 6

Grade 6

Pass +

Pass+ students demonstrate advanced understanding when reading, analyzing, and responding to grade-level appropriate fiction and nonfiction text, including genres from previous grade levels. Students identify and understand figurative language and multiple-meaning words and apply their knowledge of word origins to comprehend the meaning of new vocabulary. *Pass+* students demonstrate advanced writing skills using appropriate standard English conventions when producing different writing forms, including those introduced in previous grade levels, as well as persuasive and expository writing and responses to literature.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 6 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- Make connections between multiple texts
- Evaluate evidence used by authors to support their points of view
- Explain how character traits and setting affect the plot and resolution of a story
- Identify and understand themes used in literature
- Write informational compositions that are interesting, supported with details, and contain a clear purpose
- Write using a variety of compound and complex sentences and a variety of organizational patterns

Grade 6

Pass

Pass students demonstrate proficient understanding when reading, analyzing, and responding to grade-level appropriate fiction and nonfiction text, including genres from previous grade levels. Students identify and understand figurative language and multiple-meaning words and apply their knowledge of word origins to comprehend the meaning of most new vocabulary. *Pass* students demonstrate satisfactory writing skills using appropriate standard English conventions when producing different writing forms, including those introduced in previous grade levels, as well as persuasive and expository writing and responses to literature.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 6 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- Use context clues to determine the meaning of unknown words
- Understand literary devices used in literary and nonfiction texts
- Identify the speaker and the type of narration used to relate text (i.e., first person, third person)
- Write narratives that include a well-developed plot, setting, characters, and point of view
- Write clear, well-organized essays that describe, explain, and compare and contrast
- Write effective persuasive compositions, clearly addressing audience concerns

Grade 6

Did Not Pass

Did Not Pass students demonstrate limited understanding when reading, analyzing, and responding to grade-level appropriate fiction and nonfiction text, including genres from previous grade levels. Students experience difficulty identifying and understanding figurative language and multiple-meaning words and applying their knowledge of word origins to comprehend the meaning of most new vocabulary. *Did Not Pass* students display limited writing skills while using basic standard English conventions when producing different writing forms, including those introduced in previous grade levels, as well as persuasive and expository writing and responses to literature.

Examples of specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 6 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- Make statements and conclusions about a text and provide supporting details
- Identify different types of literature
- Write using simple sentences and correct capitalization
- Write responses to literature that show clear understanding by using text-based details
- Write for different purposes, such as informational, descriptive, and persuasive compositions, using interesting words and supporting details